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Department of Urban Studies and Planning  
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# Insight



It is a pleasure to introduce this latest edition of our research newsletter, which showcases some of the excellent and innovative research taking place across the Department of Urban Studies and Planning.

# welcome

**This edition of Insight provides a flavour of the diversity of our research in terms of the range of urban challenges and issues addressed, the multitude of international contexts engaged, and the variety of methodological and theoretical approaches utilized. From squatting in London to eviction in Bucharest, and from peripheral settlements in Africa to new perspectives on US mega-regions, colleagues continue to help shape urban planning agendas in a range of contexts.**

Since I joined the Department in September 2016, there has been much to celebrate in terms of individual and collective research achievements, and there is genuine excitement about the research that will be undertaken in the months and years ahead. The most significant of these achievements – and one that cements our position as one of the strongest groupings of housing researchers in Europe – is the establishment of the ESRC UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE), for which we are a lead partner. Alongside this we have continued to gain success in securing UK Research Council funding, as well as funding from the British Academy, the Leverhulme Trust and the European Regional Development Fund, among others.

There have also been a number of individual achievements during the past year. Both Alasdair Rae and Zheng Wang were winners in the RTPI Research Excellence Awards in 2017; Craig Watkins has been elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences; and John Henneberry has been elected a Fellow of the RTPI. In December 2017, Alasdair Rae was recognised for producing the 'UK Statistic of the Year' by the Royal

Statistical Society for his work on 'A Land Cover Atlas of the United Kingdom' in which it was revealed that just 0.1% of the UK land area is built upon.

Our research interests continue to be international in scope with new funded projects in Europe, India and Africa. Recent academic appointments also support our interests in addressing global urban challenges and, specifically, enhance our connections and research in China and Latin America. During the past year we have also begun productive discussions about how we think about the contemporary housing challenge from a genuinely global perspective.

As ever, we are keen to engage with partners from academia, professional practice, professional organisations and third sector/community groups in sustaining and enriching our research endeavours. If you would like to work with us – or simply find out more about the research highlighted in this newsletter – please do get in touch.

**Ryan Powell**  
Director of Research  
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## University of Sheffield to Tackle UK's Housing Problems As Part Of New National Research Centre

The University of Sheffield is a lead partner in the new UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE) which will employ robust evidence about what works to support effective housing policy and practice.

CaCHE is a UK-wide, inclusive and multi-disciplinary centre. Benefiting from more than £6m of investment from the Economic and Social Research Council, Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, it is a major research initiative with the aim of making a practical difference to housing provision across the UK.

It is widely accepted that Britain's housing system is not working. There are multiple crises affecting all aspects of housing in the UK such as a lack of affordable housing preventing young people from owning their own home, meeting the housing needs of an ageing population, building the right housing in the right places, and tackling homelessness. Housing is high on the political agenda, but the issues affecting the housing system are complex and deep-rooted. It is the aim of CaCHE to employ robust evidence about what works to support effective housing policy and practice in the UK. For Professor Tony McEnergy, Interim Chief Executive of

the ESRC, the Centre "will serve as a vital national institution, and provide a leading voice in the UK on housing issues." Funding for CaCHE began in August 2017 and will continue to 2022. Over the first year there will be a series of evidence reviews and exemplar projects spanning six key themes – housing and the economy; understanding the housing market; housing choice and aspirations; housing and health, education, employment, poverty and inequality; place, design and neighbourhoods; and multilevel governance.

Recognising that there is not one single housing market in the UK, and that housing issues vary considerably geographically, CaCHE has established knowledge exchange hubs that will cover the main elements of the local housing system in Scotland, Wales and the South West, Northern Ireland, Southern England and Northern England. These hubs will bring together representatives of housing policy and practice and other voices to help develop priorities for the future work of CaCHE.

### Find out more

If you are interested in the work of CaCHE, or would like to know how you might be able to get involved, contact Gareth Young, Knowledge Exchange and Impact Fellow for the Northern Hub.

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🐦 [@housingevidence](https://twitter.com/housingevidence)

**“ The investment in CaCHE provides a generational opportunity for the research, policy and practice communities to work in partnership for a sustained period. The centre is uniquely placed to foster collaboration across the housing sector to develop truly innovative solutions to the UK's housing problems.”**

**Professor Craig Watkins**  
Vice President and Head of Faculty of Social Sciences, and National Director of Research for CaCHE.



# Regulating the private rented sector

With the private rented sector increasing in England, Dr Tom Moore shares insights from a recent study he carried out for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, looking at lessons learned from the regulation of the sector in Ireland.

## Find out more

[www.jrf.org.uk/report/regulation-private-rented-sector-england-using-lessons-ireland](http://www.jrf.org.uk/report/regulation-private-rented-sector-england-using-lessons-ireland)  
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Around 20 per cent of households now live in the private rented sector in England, but there are a number of concerns about the suitability of the tenure. Research shows that private rented housing can be costlier, less secure and of lower quality than other tenures.

These issues have led to calls for greater regulation of the private rented sector, particularly given that there are more young people, families, and low-income households renting from landlords.

In Ireland, there is a regulatory system involving long-term tenancies of up to four years, with eviction protections, mandatory registration of tenancies with a statutory body, a dispute resolution service for use by landlords and tenants, and limitations on the frequency of rent increases.

Longer-term tenancies were shown to have advantages: landlords can only evict according to strict conditions and criteria, and tenants can take cases to the dispute resolution service where they fail to abide

by this. However, landlords were also shown to evade some of these conditions (in spite of the illegality of this) and tenants were often unaware or reluctant to exercise their rights. Interestingly, tenancy registration in Ireland – and landlord licensing in some parts of England – was shown to improve public understanding of the private rented sector, including rent levels and the composition and geography of the sector.

Regulation of the private rented sector can have a positive effect on the experiences of tenants, but it is not the only answer to the problems of the sector. In particular, issues of housing undersupply and affordability affect tenancy access and sustainment. In Ireland, there are measures in place to incentivise landlords to let housing to low-income tenants for longer periods of time, creating additional tenure security.

England is increasingly an outlier in its under-regulation of the private rented sector. New regulations were introduced in Scotland in 2017, bearing similarity to those in Ireland. As the private rented sector continues to expand, it is likely that calls for policy intervention aimed at regulating the sector in a way that balances the interests of landlords and tenants will continue.

In recent years, there has been an intensification of welfare conditionality (the behavioural conditions attached to accessing welfare benefits and services) for increasing populations of welfare service users across the UK. In conjunction with researchers from five other UK universities, Professor John Flint and Dr Jenny McNeill have sought to find out if this works and if it is fair.

**A key finding of the research indicates that forms of support are more important than the application of sanctions in effectively achieving lasting and positive behaviour change. In fact, mounting evidence suggests that benefit sanctions often have a damaging impact on people's lives, leading to destitution, hunger, survival crime, risk of homelessness, isolation, worsened mental and physical health and stigmatization.**

The 5-year study involved interviews with 52 policy makers, 27 focus groups with practitioners and repeat in-depth interviews with 480 service users across 10 cities in England and Scotland. Many of the service users interviewed had complex support needs and their vulnerabilities meant behaviour change was complex and varied over time.

Reflecting on the experiences of participants who had been subject to anti-social behaviour (ASB) interventions, Jenny McNeill comments – “What was unique with the sample of people subject to ASB interventions was that supportive and intensive interventions like Family Intervention Projects (FIPs) were essential elements of positive changes. FIPs were viewed positively as offering direct intervention (e.g. help with housing), signposting to other services and advocacy. Yet, many outcomes of FIPs (such as crisis management, improved routines and parenting and enhanced self-confidence and health) are often more difficult to capture than more measurable ‘hard’ transformative outcomes.”

Jenny continues – “The bespoke support provided by FIPs contrasts with the impersonal, often automated, use of employment-related benefit sanctions. These sanctions were largely viewed more negatively, especially where legal or financial sanctions were applied without an accompanying package of support. Whilst participants agreed in principle with the use of sanctions many felt they had been unfairly applied in their situations. However, some respondents argued that sanctions could be important in triggering a motivation to change and encouraging engagement with, and adherence to, supportive intervention packages. Conversely sanctions could also lead to disengagement altogether.”

## Support more important than sanctions find researchers on major study of welfare conditions

## Find out more

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“Overall, there was limited evidence that benefit sanctions actually work to change people's behaviour in positive ways such as moving towards work or desisting from anti-social behaviour. The study therefore has serious implications for service providers working with some of the most marginalised people in society faced with the challenges of rising benefit sanctions.”

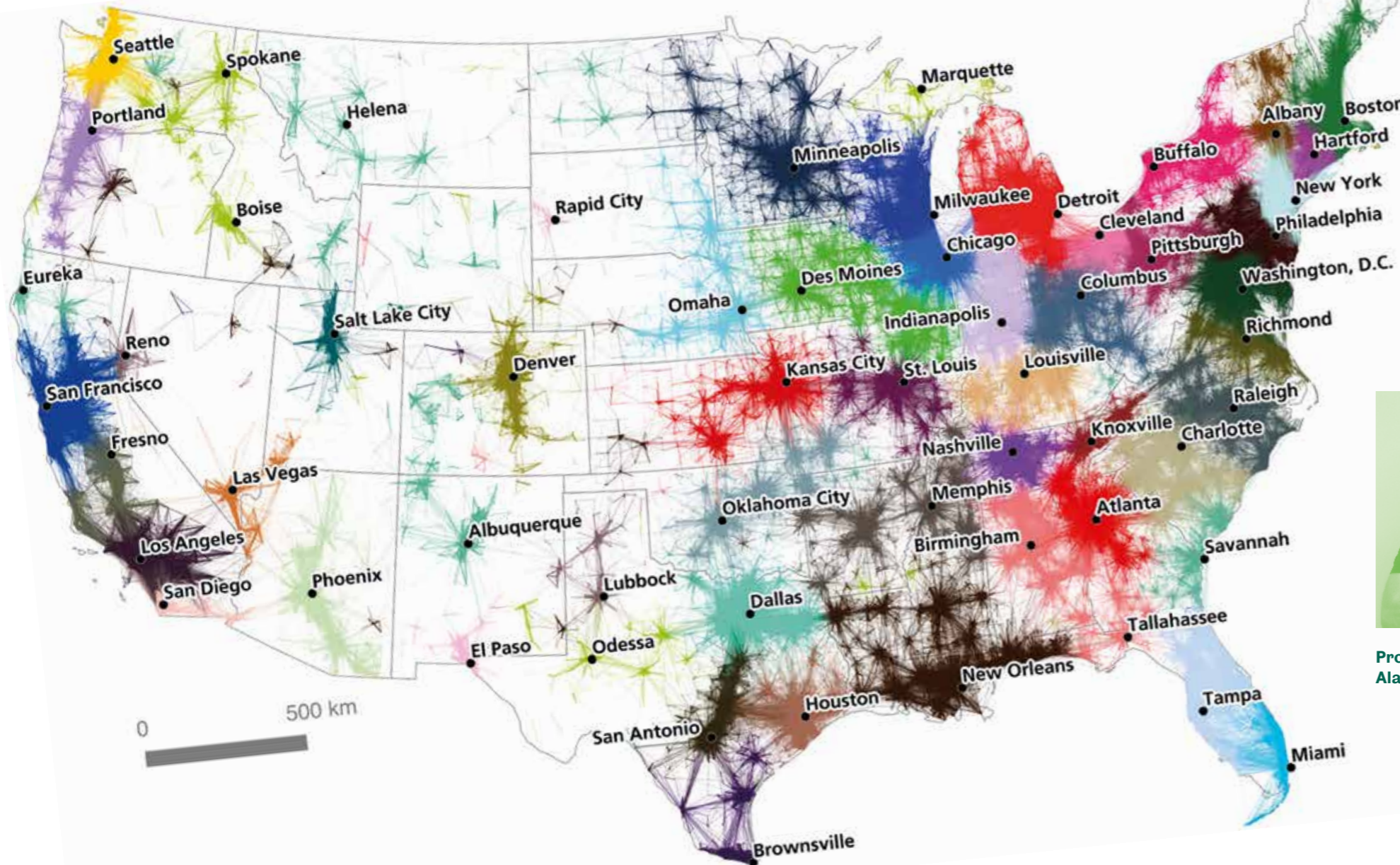
Professor John Flint



# From Algorithms to Megaregions: Mapping America's Economic Geography

We hear a lot these days about algorithms, whether it's to do with self-driving cars, or how opinions can be manipulated online. Less well known is the fact that we can also use algorithms to understand geography. In recent work with Garrett Nelson of Dartmouth College in the United States, Professor Alasdair Rae has developed a new understanding of the economic geography of the USA using an algorithmic approach.

The result was a new set of US 'megaregions', which seemed to capture the popular imagination and strike a chord with policymakers.



## A new response to an age-old problem

In urban studies and planning it has long been known that the political and administrative geographies we use to govern are often not a good match with how we actually live. A good example of this is labour market areas, where people can sometimes commute long distances, far beyond the official limits of a city. This isn't necessarily a problem for individuals, but when it comes to planning for infrastructure or housing we often need to think beyond the local. This idea is not new. The most famous manifestation of this is perhaps Jean Gottmann's concept of the 'megalopolis'.

## Find out more

### Read the paper

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0166083>

### View the data

<https://doi.org/10.15131/shef.data.4110156>

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Our intention was to take a close look at how America was actually organised from the perspective of the everyday commute", Alasdair comments. "To do this, we used some high-end computing to analyse 130 million data points on travel to work across America. This showed that, from an economic geography perspective, the USA appears to be constructed from a series of large, functional megaregions. You can see this in the map opposite, where the coloured lines represent commute flows and the colours represent individual megaregions."



Professor Alasdair Rae

## 'It just made sense!'

Alasdair explains – "The reaction to our work has been fantastic. In a world where 1,000 views of your work can represent 'going viral', we were heartened to see the level of interest and our paper has now been viewed more than a quarter of a million times and has been covered by 22 news outlets, including The Washington Post and National Geographic. Yet much more rewarding than this has been the response from people working in the so-called 'real world' who have got in touch to say how useful the work has been."

"This includes people working on infrastructure development in Silicon Valley in California, economic development professionals in

Louisiana, regional planners in the North Eastern USA, and even a Major League baseball team. To follow the publication of the paper, we did an 'Ask me Anything' event on Reddit, where it was clear that our map had resonated with a range of people as these comments attest – "I've lived in all three partitions of Massachusetts and this is 100% accurate" and "Holy crap they drew the definitive line to divide north and south Jersey!"

"Not all academic work can have this kind of reach, and it is certainly not representative of a typical research project, yet it demonstrates that the kinds of things that happen behind the closed doors of academia can have real world impact and relevance and that algorithms can help us understand our world a little better."



## Neighbourhood cohesion in urban China

Recent research undertaken by Dr Zheng Wang explores the impact of migration in Shanghai – and questions assumptions about declining social cohesion in urban China.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics of China, there are 247 million rural migrants living in urban China (NBS 2015).

The influx of migrants has led to a growing concern that social cohesion in Chinese cities is declining and that tensions between migrants and native residents are worsening. The large numbers of rural migrants coupled with housing restrictions on them have led to the emergence of migrant enclaves, which in the eyes of city authorities and local media are a cause for the supposed decline of social cohesion. However, despite these concerns there is surprisingly little empirical evidence to justify these assumptions.

Our study set out to investigate how the influx of millions of rural migrants into Chinese cities has impacted on the social cohesion of urban

communities. Our research was based on a large household survey conducted in Shanghai in 2013. The survey included rural migrants and urban residents living in a wide range of different neighbourhoods such as low-income settlements with higher concentrations of migrant residents and affluent housing estates with a lower share of rural migrant residents.

Our analysis showed that neighbourhoods with a more balanced share of migrant and native residents (around 20-50% of rural migrant residents) have the strongest cohesion potentially because local residents have already adjusted to living with their migrant neighbours. Neighbourhood cohesion is also stronger in migrant enclaves (where more than half of the residents are rural migrants) as migrant residents may have formed their own in-group community. Furthermore, our analysis revealed that the strongest deterrent of cohesion was the prospect of displacement and lack of resources since low-income areas and traditional courtyard neighbourhoods, which are the key targets of demolition and regeneration due to their high land value, have the weakest cohesion.

Contrary to the common perception that newcomers can decrease levels of neighbourhood cohesion, our study revealed that in Shanghai, social cohesion tends to be higher in

neighbourhoods with a more balanced mix of migrant and local residents as compared to traditional neighbourhoods with a recent influx of migrants. Cohesion also exists in migrant enclaves, which are more characterised by informality, since migrants have built up their own migrant community in order to provide mutual support.

These results signal that the influx of migrant residents may initially reduce neighbourhood cohesion, but over time both local and migrant residents get used to each other's presence and are able to rebuild their cohesion. In light of our findings we argue that the state needs to abolish policies that limit the housing choice of migrants in Chinese cities and also move away from demolishing older and poorer neighbourhoods, which are the actual deterrents of social cohesion.

### Find out more

Read the paper –  
🏠 <https://doi.org/10.1177/0308518X16673839>  
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## 'It Started Raining' Fighting for the Right to Housing in Bucharest.

According to Amnesty International, in Romania 'the right to housing is not effectively recognized or protected by national legislation' and Roma people are 'disproportionally affected' by forced evictions.

*A început ploaia* (translated as 'It Started Raining') is the first feature documentary narrating the full history of, and reasons behind, this continuous harassment and displacement. The film follows the story of the Vulturilor 50 community of Bucharest (100 individuals), who dwelt on the street from September 2014 to June 2016 in order to fight against the eviction from their home, enacting the longest and most visible protest for housing right in the history of contemporary Romania. The experiences of the community are presented alongside interviews with activists, scholars and politicians, composing a picture

that speaks of racial discrimination, homelessness, evictions, but also of grassroots practices of resistance and social change.

The documentary is the result of more than two years of video-ethnographic work around forced evictions against Roma people in Bucharest by Dr Michele Lancione, who joined The University of Sheffield in September 2017.

If at first Michele's involvement with the Vulturilor 50 community was solely of an activist nature, with the passing of time he started to work with them (and the cohort of activists involved in the resistance)



on a more profound basis, sharing means and ideas. This eventually led to the production of activist-oriented videos and, then, to the realisation of the documentary. The aim of *A început ploaia* is twofold. On the one hand, the documentary aims to support the struggle for the right to the city that Roma people are bringing to the fore in Bucharest. On the other hand, the film shows how it may be possible to mix academic fieldwork, activist-oriented work and visual methods to create space for empowering experiences and meaningful exchange.



### Find out more

🏠 [www.ainceputploaia.com](http://www.ainceputploaia.com)  
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🐦 @michelelancione

“ I hope for this film to become an active testament of the fight for housing in Bucharest – one that will be used by activists, evicted people and researchers to strengthen their resistance to displacement and to fight continuous harassment. In order to work toward this direction, I would like for the film to be seen by different kinds of people, including academics, film-makers, but most importantly activists and communities that have faced, or are facing, evictions. ”

Dr Michele Lancione

# New projects

## Urban development and the 'new scramble' for Africa

Much of the African continent is currently undergoing an 'urban revolution'. This has profound implications for African states and societies. It also throws up new challenges for traditional aid donors, who have long been inclined to focus much of their effort on rural poverty. The increased engagement between emerging global powers and countries on the African continent

has attracted widespread attention in recent years, particularly with respect to the role of China as an aid donor, investor and source of migrants.

Led by Dr Tom Goodfellow and funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, the project focusses on Chinese engagement in Ethiopia and Uganda. It aims to explore how interactions between

Chinese agencies, other emerging powers investing in Africa, 'traditional' donors and African governments are shaping the way urban development challenges are understood and acted upon. The research centres on three critical issues – the governance of urban land, the impacts of major urban infrastructure projects, and efforts to create mass industrial and service sector employment.

### Find out more

[www.sheffield.ac.uk/usp/research/projects/scramble](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/usp/research/projects/scramble)  
[t.goodfellow@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:t.goodfellow@sheffield.ac.uk)  
[@GoodfellowTom](https://twitter.com/GoodfellowTom)

## BEGIN: Improving climate resilience with Blue Green Infrastructure



**Extreme weather conditions are now a more frequent challenge for cities to face across the world. Climate adaptations are an essential part of the response to the effects of climate change – and 'Blue Green Infrastructure' (BGI) is one of the most effective approaches in reducing flood risk in urban areas. However, opportunities for investment in BGI solutions are too often missed.**

BEGIN is a new international research project, which is funded by the Interreg North Sea Region Programme (European Regional Development Fund), involving partners from six European countries. The overall objective of BEGIN is to demonstrate how cities can improve climate resilience with BGI. At the heart of the project is a desire to engage with local citizens and social organisations to

collaborate in developing solutions that will make urban areas more attractive, resistant and resilient.

Led by Dr Liz Sharp, USP's involvement in BEGIN focusses on – the planning and procedural context in which BGI is developed in different locations; the distribution of costs and benefits of BGI between different stakeholders; and the professional contexts of those who bring forward BGI solutions.

### Find out more

[www.northsearegion.eu/begin](http://www.northsearegion.eu/begin)  
[l.sharp@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:l.sharp@sheffield.ac.uk)

# Working in the public interest?

In the post-war era, decisions about urban development in the UK were justified with the idea that state-employed planners served a unified public interest. Although this has long been challenged it is an idea that remains important for professional practice. However, over the last 20 years organisational reforms have seen some planning functions of the state devolved to local communities, while the role of the market has expanded with the private sector increasingly delivering planning services. Nearly half of all UK Chartered Planners now work for private firms and the current Government seeks to extend private sector involvement.

This project offers the first major investigation in the UK into the increasing involvement of private companies in carrying out professional spatial planning work formerly conducted by local government. The research focusses on three key areas – the extent and nature of private sector involvement in planning; the implications of this for planners' understanding of their professional roles; and the consequences for traditional justifications of planning activities as in the 'public interest'. The project is led by Professor Malcolm Tait and funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

### Find out more

[www.witpi.group.shef.ac.uk](http://www.witpi.group.shef.ac.uk)  
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[@WITPI\\_Planning](https://twitter.com/WITPI_Planning)



## Squatting in 'the alpha territory'

**Urban researchers have long warned us that London is being transformed into an 'alpha territory'.**

An influx of international finance has steadily changed London into a location for the rich, whilst the growth of property speculation is having far-reaching consequences for the city.

Contemporary London is a vision of the wealthy – cranes, glass and steel abound – yet it is also host to many grassroots opposition groups who are resisting gentrification, eviction and demolition.

In particular, politicised squatting is on the increase, through community mobilisation and activist networks undeterred by the outlawing of residential squatting in 2012.

In this 3-year Leverhulme Trust Fellowship, Dr Sam Burgum will explore the nature and significance of squatting – the semi-permanent occupation of vacant property without permission – in contemporary London. The research will consider the connections between the actions of the rich and the situation of the poor, as well as between different networks and groups including activists, residents and the rising population of homeless and houseless people.

### Find out more

<https://squattinglondon.wordpress.com/>  
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# Developing Design Consultants for the Future

“

We have been careful not to displace the core principles of our Urban Design teaching in favour of a focus on simply creating VR environments; instead we wish to promote the use and exploration of VR as a design tool for the future Urban Designer and imagine that one day it may sit alongside pen, paper and set-square in the design toolbox.”

Dr Bobby Nisha and Bryony Olney



In January 2017 Dr Bobby Nisha and Bryony Olney were successful in securing funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England for a project on the use of Virtual and Augmented Reality technologies in urban design teaching.

**Immersive Virtual Reality (VR) is growing in popularity and whilst it is often viewed as the domain of gamers, it is seeing a significant rise in popularity in a wide range of industries for creative and commercial purposes.**

In the built environment sector, immersive visualisations can help to improve public understanding of the impacts of new design solutions on 'real world' sites. VR also provides the opportunity for urban designers to work in an entirely new way – to experience a design as it evolves and consider how the design responds to the surrounding environment from a uniquely 'human' perspective. A core aim of Bobby and Bryony's project has been to explore the ways in which VR technologies can extend and enhance our design student's understanding of core software and skills. As a design tool, VR offers urban design students a micro, ego-centric view of their composition in contrast to the macro allo-centric view offered by design softwares such as SketchUp.

The ability to view their designs from a first person, human scale viewpoint in VR enables the student to have improved empathy with those who will use the environment in its intended form. The concept of "spatial presence", the feeling of being located in a virtual space, further enhances students' ability to immerse themselves in their environment and to experience their design rather than to act as passive observers. This supports the notion that the process of design and visualisation should be iterative, with changes made to designs as a result of insights gained through visualisation which feed into the next iteration, and so on.



VR provides the opportunity for an alternative perspective to that offered by traditional methods of visualisation such as using paper and pencil or desktop-based design software. With an elevated sense of spatial presence within the VR environment, students are able to develop an improved understanding and empathy of the effects of their design proposals on stakeholders. However, Bobby and Bryony are clear - "we have been careful not to displace the core principles of our Urban Design teaching in favour of a focus on simply creating VR environments; instead we wish to promote the use and exploration of VR as a design tool for the future Urban Designer and imagine that one day it may sit alongside pen, paper and set-square in the design toolbox". The project is due to conclude at the end of March 2018.



## Find out more

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# Storying Planning

PhD researcher Jason Slade reflects on the role of narrative in planning.



## What is the focus of your research?

The foundations for my PhD research lay in the interest in narrative – as fundamental to how human beings understand themselves and their world – that has grown and evolved across the humanities and social sciences in recent decades. This has found particular expression in planning theory – for example, in the work of James Throgmorton, John Forester and Leonie Sandercock – which has seen narrative as a tool for both doing and understanding the work of planners and planning. My research explored this relationship, particularly the suggestion that story might represent a way for the residents of places to try and influence change and development. I explored this through a case study focussed on the role of story in a resident-driven community planning initiative.

## What methods did you use?

I employed participant observation, document analysis and qualitative interviews alongside a significant action element during my research. This saw me engaged in producing neighbourhood profile and plan documents with residents, as key elements of their community development work, and subsequently conducting a story workshop, which allowed participants to reflect on their experience of community planning.

## What were the key findings?

In my PhD I seek to develop our understanding of the role of narrative in planning in three key ways.

First, in relation to how story figures in making change in community contexts, I argue that whilst all change might involve story, trying to intervene in and through it is difficult and unpredictable, with disempowering stories or stories for stasis often being overwhelmingly powerful.

Secondly, in terms of what it means for non-professionals to engage in planning activity my research highlights just how much planning demands of people physically, intellectually and emotionally. People can have quite different understandings of planning, its processes and outcomes. A plan, then, might not seem a good way to tell a story, and telling a story might not appear to be a good way to plan. What is more, if residents are not committed to the project of reframing the future of their communities then story cannot necessarily take them there.

Thirdly, I have sought to develop a more nuanced understanding of the politicisation of community practice. Community contexts are live, with a range of stakeholders and interests endeavouring to define and influence them. As such, planners might find themselves marginalised, and should not expect to be able to lead in defining how they and the spaces where they find themselves are understood.

The links between story and planning are certainly tangible to those involved in making places but there is nothing straightforward about them. Story is no substitute for the skills and, more importantly, the political will necessary to plan equitably for how places change and develop. As such, there is no easy movement between storying and planning, and to suggest otherwise can serve as a smokescreen for political projects that, whether by design or unhappy accident, disinvest in, disengage from and disempower disadvantaged communities.

## Find out more

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# Global Perspectives

PhD training partnership key to expanding early career horizons.

In 2016 we established a PhD training partnership with the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa. Funded by Research Councils UK and the Newton Fund in the UK and the National Research Foundation in South Africa, the partnership seeks to develop a cohort of international researchers with the skills and capacities to deliver high quality research on urban planning and governance.

At the heart of the programme is a series of short exchanges between South Africa and the UK, in order to support and facilitate shared learning related to the theories, methods and practices of academic research. A by-product of the exchanges has seen the development of PhD training materials which will be of benefit to future students.

To date, five exchange visits have taken place, covering topics such as 'the politics of research'; 'demystifying qualitative analysis' and, most recently, 'the politics and practice of writing'. Feedback from student participants has been overwhelmingly positive. Alison Calder (PhD student, University of Sheffield) noted – "For me the most useful element was being able to discuss and get feedback on my work from Global South students ... it has helped massively with my confidence in my PhD research". In a similar vein, Boitumelo Matlala (PhD

## Find out more

🏠 [www.sheffield.ac.uk/usp/researchschool/wits](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/usp/researchschool/wits)  
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student, University of Witwatersrand) commented – "I found the workshop very helpful in unlocking various blockages I had in my writing. It helped me identify aspects of my proposal that I was struggling to refine/clarify and that were hindering me from making progress with finalising my proposal."

Commenting on the success of the programme so far, Dr Glyn Williams states – "This has been a great learning experience – working intensively with an international cohort of PhD students has strengthened links between our Universities, and given the staff involved insights into how to provide support throughout the PhD process. We're all committed to producing cutting-edge learning resources from the programme that will set the standard for future urban studies and planning research training."

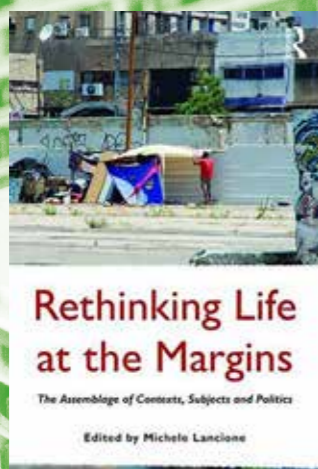
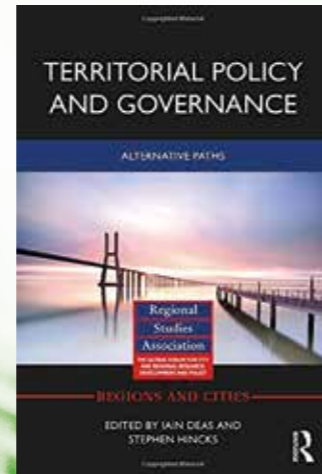
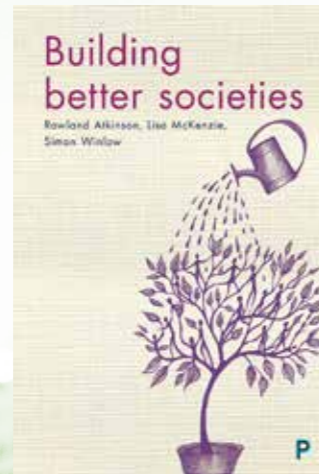
“

I found the workshop very helpful in unlocking various blockages I had in my writing. It helped me identify aspects of my proposal that I was struggling to refine/clarify and that were hindering me from making progress with finalising my proposal.”

Boitumelo Matlala (PhD student, University of Witwatersrand)



# Publications



Department of Urban Studies and Planning staff indicated in bold

## Books

- Blandy S & **Atkinson R** (2016) *Domestic Fortress: Fear and the New Home Front* (Manchester University Press)
- Sharp L** (2017) *Reconnecting People and Water: Public Engagement and Sustainable Urban Water Management* (Routledge)

## Edited Books

- Atkinson R**, McKenzie L & Winlow S (Eds.) (2017) *Building Better Societies: Promoting Social Justice in a World Falling Apart*. (Policy Press)
- Henneberry J** (Ed.) (2017) *Transience and Permanence in Urban Development* (Wiley-Blackwell)
- Deas I & **Hincks S** (Eds.) (2017) *Territorial Politics and Governance: Alternative Paths* (Routledge)
- Lancione M** (Ed.). (2016) *Rethinking Life at the Margins: The Assemblage of Contexts, Subjects and Politics* (Routledge)

## Journal Articles

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- Goodfellow T** (2017) Taxing property in a neo-developmental state: the politics of urban land value capture in Rwanda and Ethiopia. *African Affairs*, 116(465), 549-572.

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- Hincks S**, Kingston R, Webb B & Wong C (2018) A new geodemographic classification of commuting flows for England and Wales. *International Journal of Geographical Information Science* (online first).
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